

Washington, DC -- Congressman Vern Buchanan (FL-13) invited a 13th District small businessman to testify today before a congressional committee honoring entrepreneurs from throughout the country. The Congressman noted that small businesses create 70 percent of new jobs and account for 51 percent of our workforce.

"Small businesses drive America's economy," said Buchanan. "They create jobs and grow the economy. It is appropriate to honor them for their hard work, ingenuity, and achievement. We also need to understand the challenges they face and create an environment that helps them be successful in today's economic climate."

The Committee heard testimony from small owners from across the country, including Lee Mirman of Sarasota. Buchanan invited the owner of Sarasota Investments to share his successful small business story during the hearing entitled "Heroes of Small Business".

Mirman says he has survived the economic downturn by using new technology to build sustainable relationships. "I've been able to thrive by developing a personal marketing strategy for each of my clients based upon their likes and dislikes."

The Sarasota realtor and investor said that in addition to short term goals, he is focused on long term planning and global positioning.

"In the US much energy and attention is focused on short term," said Mirman. "During the internet boom there was irrational exuberance. Now there is irrational pessimism."

He said during a recent conference in Europe the mood was different. "There we met business people from every part of the world who understand that we are in a cycle and will emerge as we always do."

This week is National Small Business Week, a five-day event intended to spotlight the accomplishments of America's entrepreneurs.

Buchanan is a member of the Small Business Committee and vice chairman of the Subcommittee on Finance and Taxes.